

INTERNATIONAL WATER GOVERNANCE AND TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFERS

Law School

Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance

Funded period: 3 years (from 01/10/2014 to 30/09/2017) Starting date can be negotiated

Applications are sought for a PhD studentship to investigate legal and policy aspects of the governance of transboundary aquifers (TBAs).

Currently, 97% of global available freshwater resources are stored underground in geological formations (aquifers), which often cross national boundaries (TBAs). The latest international figures show more than 400 TBAs worldwide but, despite the increasing importance of groundwater, and the adoption of the non-legally binding United Nations International Law Commission (UNILC) Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers 2008 (Draft Articles), there are currently only a handful of international legal instruments devoted to the management of specific TBAs in the world.

The project will explore challenges and opportunities arising from the potential applicability of existing international legal instruments (some groundwater-specific, some not) to specific TBAs.

Three case studies have initially been identified for the project: the Guarani Aquifer System in Latin America, the Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System in Europe and the Shire Valley Aquifer in Southern Africa. However, applicants are encouraged to identify, in their research proposal, possible alternative case studies giving full reasons for these choices.

The PhD student will be integrated within the [Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance](#), which hosts an increasing number of [PhD researchers](#). The project will also contribute to [UNESCO-IHP ISARM](#), the leading international initiative in the field of transboundary aquifer management.

The studentship will cover fees up to the home/EU rate only and provides a stipend of approximately £13863 per year.

To apply:

- E-mail the following documents, by the closing date to hass-postgrad@strath.ac.uk
 - Cover letter
 - Research proposal including methodology (1500 words max)
 - Academic qualifications

The place of useful learning

The University of Strathclyde is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, number SC015263

- Writing sample (eg previous research paper; masters dissertation)
- An English language qualification (if required)
- You must also arrange for two academic references to be e-mailed, to the same address, by the closing date
- All applicants must also apply online (<http://pgr.strath.ac.uk/>) for a place on the PhD programme at Strathclyde

Applicants already holding doctoral qualifications should not apply

CLOSING DATE: 15 July (midnight)

For further information on the studentship please contact the academic lead Dr Francesco Sindico at Francesco.sindico@strath.ac.uk

For general information please contact the HaSS Graduate School at hass-postgrad@strath.ac.uk (tel: (+44) (0)141-444-8400)



The PhD candidate will be physically based in the University of strathclyde Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate School where they will enjoy first class working space and an active and inspiring research environment.



Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance

The Law School's Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance (SCELG) operates as a centre of academic excellence in environmental law and governance. The goal of the Centre is to foster multidisciplinary and policy relevant research in international, European and national (both Scottish and English) environmental law and governance.

The Centre is also a hub for excellence in PhD and postgraduate teaching programmes in environmental law and governance within the Law School. It hosts a Visiting Researcher Programme and welcomes consultancy collaborations with public and private policy makers and stakeholders.

The successful candidate will benefit from being an active member of SCELG as her/his PhD will be framed within a vibrant research community.



UNESCO-IHP ISARM

The worldwide ISARM (Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management) Initiative is an UNESCO and IAH led multi-agency effort aimed at improving the understanding of scientific, socio-economic, legal, institutional and environmental issues related to the management of transboundary aquifers.

The academic lead, Dr Francesco Sindico, has been collaborating with UNESCO-IHP ISARM for a number of years now, and several of his projects have contributed to the initiative, including the 2013 Glasgow Conference on International Water Cooperation and Transboundary Aquifers.

The successful PhD candidate will collaborate with Dr Sindico on a number of projects that will feed in UNESCO-IHP ISARM.